

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chairman), Lennon, Albright, Salvucci, Gentile, Yates, Mansfield, and Lappin

Also present: Ald. Coletti, Harney, and Sangiolo

Also present: John Daghlain (Associate City Engineer), Arthur Cabral (Special Project and Budget Specialist; Public Buildings Department), Nick Parnell (Commissioner of Public Buildings), Heidi Black (Administrator of High School Construction and Strategic Planning; School Department), Sandra Guryan (Director of Finance; School Department), Dori Zaleznik (School Committee), Jonathan Yeo (School Committee), Joshua Morse (HVAC Technician; School Department), and David Tannozzini (Energy Officer; Public Buildings Department)

#351-09 ROBERT KELLY, for Edward Carey, 110 Staniford Street, petitioning for a sewer main extension to be constructed in STANIFORD STREET from an existing cleanout to be converted to a sewer manhole located at West Pine Street and Staniford Street 100' ± northerly to a proposed sewer manhole in Staniford Street. (Ward 4) [10/13/09 @4:28 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0 (Albright and Mansfield not voting)**

NOTE: John Daghlain, Associate City Engineer, presented the request for a sewer main extension to provide service to 110 Staniford Street. Currently, the sewer main ends in front of 116 Staniford Street and it would be extended approximately 100' in a northeasterly direction. The homeowners are petitioning for the sewer extension due to a failing septic system. The petitioner will pay the entire cost of the sewer extension and street restoration. Staniford Street is a private way; therefore, the city would need to take the land for the sewer extension, which requires Board of Aldermen approval. A taking plan was provided to the Committee, which has been reviewed by the Associate City Engineer.

The public hearing was opened and Mr. Richard Carey, 102 Staniford Street spoke on the petition. Mr. Carey is a fifth generation homeowner and is in favor of the sewer extension. However, he previously attempted to connect to the city's sewer system as well. When he contacted the city regarding connecting to the system, he was told the road was too low for a sewer extension and it would need a pump house. He stated that in the 1990s, a condominium complex was constructed further down the street at 83 Staniford Street and was connected to the city sewer system through an easement from the city. The manhole for that sewer line is located in Staniford Street; however, the condominium association will not allow access. Mr. Kimball installed a new septic system when he purchased his home; therefore, he no longer requires a sewer connection.

Mr. George Kimball, 84 Staniford Street, provided the attached e-mail, as he was unable to attend the meeting. The e-mail states that Mr. Kimball is in favor of the petition. However, Mr. Kimball wished to make the Committee aware of the difficulties he has had in attempting to

connect to the city sewer since 1980. Mr. Kimball requested that the Aldermen provide some assistance, if possible, with his sewer connection. He has heard that he could now connect to the manhole in front of the condominium complex and he would like confirmation of that. In addition, if the City were performing the sewer extension for Mr. Carey, he would like them to provide a connection for his home and if a private contractor were installing the sewer main and connection for Mr. Carey, he would like contact information. The Committee requested that Mr. Daghliah speak with Mr. Kimball regarding a possible sewer extension. Ald. Gentile moved approval of the sewer extension and land taking with a recommendation for an emergency preamble, which carried unanimously.

#352-09 NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY petitioning for a grant of location to install 223'± of conduit in WOODWARD STREET from Woodward Street at Boylston Street northwesterly to Pole #478. (Ward 5) [10/01/09@ 2:12 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 6-0 (Albright and Mansfield not voting)**

NOTE: The item was held without discussion, as a representative from NStar was unavailable to present the petition.

#353-09 NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY petitioning for a grant of location to install 375'± of conduit and two new manholes in MAPLE AVENUE from Church Street at Maple Avenue southerly to proposed Manhole #29138. (Ward 1) [09/22/09 @ 12:20 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 6-0 (Albright and Mansfield not voting)**

NOTE: The item was held without discussion, as a representative from NStar was unavailable to present the petition.

#354-09 NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY petitioning for a grant of location to install 160'± of conduit in BEACON STREET from Manhole #16146 southwesterly 20'± to WYMAN STREET continuing 140'± southeasterly to Pole #479/11. (Ward 5) [09/22/09@ 12:21 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 6-0 (Albright and Mansfield not voting)**

NOTE: The item was held without discussion, as a representative from NStar was unavailable to present the petition.

#355-09 NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY petitioning for a grant of location to install 310'± of conduit in WOODWARD STREET from Pole #478/49 southwesterly 285'± to BEACON STREET continuing 25'± southwesterly to Manhole #18408. (Ward 5) [09/22/09@ 12:21 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 6-0 (Albright and Mansfield not voting)**

NOTE: The item was held without discussion, as a representative from NStar was unavailable to present the petition.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#288-09 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to appropriate and expend one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000) from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the installation of four modular classrooms at the Oak Hill Middle School and for design work for modulars at the Day Middle School.
[09/15/09 @ 1:28 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 6-1 (Schnipper opposed; Mansfield not voting)**

NOTE: Dori Zaleznik spoke on the request for funds to purchase four new modular classrooms for Oak Hill Middle School and design money for a space study at Day Middle School. The design money would be used to determine whether it is possible to create additional space within F.A. Day Middle School. The School Committee Long-Range Facilities Subcommittee went through a similar process in June and July when options were presented to the School Committee. The subcommittee provided a memo to the Board, which was attached to the agenda. The memo outlined the subcommittee's work on determining the best option to address the increased enrollment in the middle schools. The subcommittee looked at various options such as redistricting from Oak Hill Middle School to Brown Middle School but still felt that the modular classrooms were the best option.

Ms. Zaleznik explained that the greater than expected elementary school enrollment from the last five years has already started to influence the middle school enrollments. The increase is not a short-term issue and is expected to last a number of years. Like Brookline, Newton has had one of the largest kindergarten enrollments this year than in the past few years. Once children are enrolled in elementary school, they generally continue on to middle school. The School Committee voted to request the funding for the four modular classrooms and design money after review all the available information.

Sandra Guryan, the School Department's Director of Finance, spoke on the projected middle school classroom shortage. Ms. Guryan stated that there was a large amount of detail in the enrollment figures that were attached to the agenda; however, it is not possible to give perfect projections. The current kindergarten class has over 860 students, which is one of the highest in a 20-year timeframe. A thorough examination of space for students has been done as part of the long-term facilities study. Elementary school enrollment shows a steep growth line. The architect involved with the long-term facilities study concluded that Newton would likely need a fifth middle school. As the School Committee's Long Term Space Range Subcommittee looked at the projection trends, they determined that it was unlikely that a fifth school would be needed for the long term.

The subcommittee began the exercise of redistricting but the problem is more significant than could be addressed with redistricting. The redistricting scenarios showed that the reassigning of students would not provide the amount of relief needed at Oak Hill Middle School and would contribute to growing space issues at the other middle schools. There is very little short-term gain by redistricting. When they looked at redistricting, they found that it only solved the problem for about a year or two. The middle school population trend peaks in 2013 but remains steady for the rest of the projections.

The subcommittee toured and visited all the middle schools so they had clear idea of space available. The Oak Hill Middle School needs two more classrooms before the beginning of the next school year and a year later the data shows the school will be two classrooms short again. Day Middle School has adequate space for the next year but it is likely they will need additional space for the 2010/2011 school year. Therefore, the School Department would like a space study at Day Middle School to assess the impact of space shortages. The subcommittee is also looking at the possibility of retrofitting the inside spaces at Day Middle School. They would like to hire an architect to examine what would be involved in retrofitting locker room space or library space for use as classrooms and if that were cost prohibitive, where the best place would be to put modular classrooms on that site.

Ald. Lappin inquired if there would be a space issue at the high school due to the increase in enrollment. Ms. Guryan does not believe that there will be an issue. When Newton South High School was renovated, it was constructed to hold 1900 students. The new Newton North High School was constructed for occupancy by 1900 students. Both high schools are currently approximately 85% utilized and can easily go up to 95% utilization without repercussions. The Committee questioned whether there would be enough teachers to staff the modular classrooms. Ms. Guryan will address the funding of additional teachers at budget time but if there are students in the modular classrooms, there will have to be teachers.

John Jordan, Brown Middle School Principal, stated that both he and Eva Thompson, Oak Hill Middle School Principal, have looked at efficiencies such as sharing space and staff. There is also no available space at Brown Middle School to supplement space at Oak Hill Middle School. The two schools have different schedules and different start and end times. In order for the schools to share the space, they would need to start and end at the same time. It would require more buses to and from the schools, which is costly and generates more traffic around the schools. In addition, there are times during the school day when every available space at Brown Middle School is used. Brown also has two citywide special education programs for middle school students.

When students reach middle school, they are placed in a team, which is a group of students that will have all of their core classes together. The concept is to keep teams together and in close proximity. For sixth grade students it is particularly important to maintain the neighborhood feel. The team sizes at Oak Hill Middle School are already the largest of the middle schools. For the 2009-2010 school year existing space that had been dedicated to World Language has been converted to team classrooms; therefore, there are two additional classrooms.

Ald. Sangiolo would like to see any work at Day Middle School tie into and not diminish the energy savings that the Noresco project at the school will generate. Ms. Zaleznik responded that most of the new Noresco equipment is on the roof and the School Department would not put in spaces that would disrupt any work that Noresco has performed. Ald. Sangiolo then inquired if the elementary school modular classrooms were still on the School Committee's agenda. She is aware that the elementary schools need the space. She wondered if ordering additional modular classrooms for the elementary schools would reduce the cost. Commissioner Parnell stated that he would provide the information at a later date. Ms. Zaleznik also felt that the elementary schools still needed the space but she was not sure whether the School Department

could staff the elementary school classrooms. The question will be raised during the upcoming budget discussions.

Ald. Coletti is disturbed that the City spent \$13 million to rebuild Oak Hill Middle School and to add modular classrooms and a connector makes the school less attractive. He suggested adding the modular classrooms to Brown Middle School and sending students across the street to the classes held in the modular classrooms. Commissioner Parnell provided slides of the Oak Hill Middle School site. He also showed a rough sketch of the site with the modular classrooms. He would like to see the City purchase green modular classroom. Green modular classrooms are more cost effective and easier to move. He also pointed out that by adding the modular classrooms to the Oak Hill Middle School there is no disruption of the School Department's programming. Ald. Coletti pointed out that the modular classrooms are a potentially long-term solution. Ald. Coletti is frustrated that there is a need for the modular classrooms at Oak Hill Middle School.

Ald. Gentile asked if there was any consideration to constructing an addition to the school instead of the modular classrooms. The Commissioner cannot deliver an addition for the same costs or in the same timeframe. According to the School Department, the additional space is needed for September. Ald. Albright would like a better sense that there will be teachers available to staff the modular classrooms. Ald. Gentile would also like more information regarding the staffing, as the School Department will be taking on additional operating costs. Ald. Lappin requested further information on the equipment and furnishing necessary for the modular classrooms and the cost of the furnishing and equipment. The Committee also requested the team size figures at Oak Hill Middle School if the modular classrooms are not added. The School Department agreed to provide the additional information for the next Public Facilities meeting. Ald. Gentile moved hold, which carried by a vote of six in favor and one opposed.

#457-08 ALD. LAPPIN AND SALVUCCI requesting discussion with NStar regarding the timely repair of City streetlights and the development of a standard response timeframe. [11/20/08 @ 12:51 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 7-0 (Mansfield not voting)**

NOTE: Marc Lucas, NStar Customer Service Representative, and Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer, both joined the Committee for discussion of this item. There are currently 55 poles within the city without electricity. Thirteen of the 55 streetlights are out due to an electrical problem between the manhole and light. The Committee and Mr. Schuckel have not received any information from the Law Department concerning whether there is any agreement between the City and NStar regarding whose responsibility it is to repair faulty wiring located between the manhole and the pole. Ald. Gentile suggested that the Committee docket a separate item requesting discussion with Law Department regarding responsibility.

Mr. Schuckel stated that the key to progress with streetlight outages is to figure out the nature of the problem and repair it regardless of legal issues. Mr. Lucas and Mr. Schuckel have been working together to solve the outages. Mr. Lucas stated that there will be on-site meetings next week with NStar and city staff to determine what is causing the outage. He hopes that it is possible to have the site meetings once a month until all the problems are resolved.

Ald. Yates requested that Mr. Schuckel provide a list of the streetlights that are out and specify which are out due to an underground connection. Mr. Schuckel would be happy to provide the list to the Committee. Ald. Gentile made a motion to hold the item and create a docket item from the Committee requesting discussion with the Law Department on how to resolve the dispute with NStar regarding whose responsibility it is to repair the streetlight connection between the manhole and the base of the streetlight. The motion carried unanimously.

#111-09 ALD. ALBRIGHT AND MANSFIELD requesting discussion of recent information (made available to the Land Use Committee) from NStar related to double poles, focusing on the 350 double poles waiting only for removal of wires or streetlights by the City of Newton.

ACTION: **HELD 8-0**

NOTE: Ald. Albright and Mansfield filed the item in response to information received at a Land Use Committee meeting. At the Land Use meeting a double pole summary was submitted and it was determined that there were approximately 350 double poles that were awaiting wire transfers by the City's Fire Department. The pole summary was attached to the agenda for Committee review.

Chief LaCroix and Jeffrey Knight of the Fire Department submitted the attached memo, as they were unable to attend the meeting. The memo implied that there were numerous issues with the NStar database that tracks double poles. Mr. Lucas felt that the database was accurate and perhaps the Fire Department was not using it properly. The memo requested a meeting between NStar and the Fire Department. Mr. Lucas agreed to meet with the Fire Department in the near future. The Committee decided to reschedule the item for discussion on November 18, 2009 in the hopes that NStar and Fire Department would have an opportunity to meet before that date.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#361-09 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to appropriate and expend one million eight hundred thirty-six thousand dollars (\$1,836,000) for funding inflow and infiltration projects in the City Sewer system. The sources of funding will be a loan of \$1,009,800 and a grant of \$826,200. [10/13/09 @ 5:24 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0-1 Lennon abstaining; Mansfield not voting)**

NOTE: Fred Russell, Utilities Director, presented the item to the Committee. Mr. Russell explained that this is Phase 7 of the MWRA Local Financial Assistance Program. The MWRA provides the city with an interest free loan for 55% of the funding and a grant for 45% of the funds. The City has been participating in the program since the mid 1990s. The funds allow the city to remove extraneous water from the sewer system, which helps reduce the annual sewer assessments by the MWRA. The program is very favorable to the City.

Mr. Russell provided the Committee with a map of Newton, which provided an outline of the proposed area of work. The funds will be concentrated on the area north of Route 9, which is known as MWRA Area C. Committee members asked Mr. Russell how much savings the projects had generated. Mr. Russell explained that the City has reduced its MWRA

assessment by approximately 3%. Ald. Coletti requested that Mr. Russell provide the previous amounts of the contracts awarded for the first six phases and a more detailed map of the projects for the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Russell agreed to provide the requested information for the Finance Committee meeting. Ald. Lappin moved approval, which carried by a vote of six in favor and one abstention.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#59-09(2) **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting authorization to appropriate and expend an additional eighty five thousand four hundred dollars (\$85,400) from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of entering into a contract with NORESCO to perform energy audits on the remaining municipal and school buildings that have not been audited.

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0-2 (Gentile and Lennon Abstaining)**

NOTE: The Committee held this item at the October 7, 2009 meeting for an updated building audit list. The original list included several buildings, such as fire stations, that either are in the process of or are soon being renovated. Those types of buildings should not require an energy audit. A new audit list was attached to the agenda. The Committee reviewed the list and was pleased that several buildings had been removed. The list does contain some buildings that may be renovated; however, Noresco will focus on short-term paybacks in those buildings. The approval of the funds will allow the city to enter into a new contract with Noresco for the proposed audits. The Commissioner clarified that a portion of the funds would be from savings from the previous audits. Ald. Albright moved approval of the item, which carried by a vote of six in favor and two abstentions.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#59-09(3) **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting authorization to appropriate and expend three million six hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$3,670,000) from bonded indebtedness for the costs related to energy savings improvements to be undertaken by NORESCO, an Energy Services Company, at the Bigelow Middle School, Brown Middle School, Oak Hill Middle School, Education Center, City Hall, Police Headquarters, Police Annex, and Police Garage; said savings are designed to generate savings sufficient to offset the cost of the project. [09/29/09 @ 4:57 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0-1 (Gentile abstaining)**

NOTE: Joshua Morse, Nick Parnell, David Tannozzini, and Arthur Cabral of the Public Buildings Department were present for the discussion of the item. The item was held on October 7, 2009 for the data from the previous energy audits, details of the Day Middle School project and any measurable energy savings that are available for that project. The Committee also requested any projected savings for the Bigelow Middle School, Brown Middle School, Oak Hill Middle School, Education Center, City Hall, Police Headquarters, Police Annex, and Police Garage if the proposed energy improvements were undertaken.

Mark Mullins and John Kauppinen from Noresco gave a PowerPoint presentation on phase two of the energy services project. The presentation was attached to the agenda for the Committee to review in advance of the meeting. The presentation included a recap of how the

City arrived at phase two of the project. In addition, the presentation included results from the F.A. Day Middle School. Improvements include new rooftop air conditioning units to replace antiquated units, a new energy management system, and efficient lighting systems with occupancy sensors, low flow plumbing, and weatherization. These improvements are beneficial as they generate energy and water savings, reduced maintenance costs and more reliable equipment.

The City received \$140,000 in utility rebates due to this project. The estimated rebates were estimated at \$95,000. The project is almost complete but the energy management system has not been added. It is expected that the project will be completed in January 2010. Noresco also provided a slide depicting the initial actual utility bill results for April, May and June of 2008 and 2009. The slide shows a marked decrease in the use of kilowatt-hours from 2008 to 2009. There has not been any measurement verification but the slide displays substantial energy savings. It is the best information regarding Day Middle School that Noresco can provide, as they are not at the measurement verification portion of the project.

The PowerPoint presentation included information from Noresco's Town of Belmont project. The Town of Belmont three-year average realized savings showed significant reductions in energy used and money savings. The actual dollar savings were higher than the guaranteed annual savings.

In addition, the Noresco representatives reviewed the project highlights for the proposed buildings. New building energy management systems would be installed in all of the buildings replacing pneumatic controls that have limited ability to adjust to changing temperature conditions. The new web-based controls for the heating and air conditioning systems would provide the ability to remotely monitor the HVAC systems and address temperature control variations. The lighting system improvements include improvements for the two middle school auditoriums that would improve lighting levels in the spaces that are deficient and costly to maintain. Weatherization and insulation would reduce cold drafts, heat loss during the winter, and prevent loss of air conditioning during the warmer weather. There are also other proposed energy conservation measures for specific buildings that were included in the presentation.

Ald. Coletti asked if savings are generated through fuel reduction when you use an energy management system. Mr. Kauppinen responded that an energy management system reduces fuel bills because if there is no management system you cannot keep the building at steady temperature in all rooms. It would be foolish to invest in an energy management system without control. Ald. Coletti when the City will see the results at Day Middle School. The system will need to be in place for both a summer and winter to calibrate. Ald. Coletti also inquired if some of the background mechanicals would be replaced. Josh Morse stated that there would be some replacement but he would not let an expensive control system be installed on something that would not provide enough savings.

Ald. Albright asked how the buildings were chosen. It was a collaborative approach and buildings were chosen by the probable energy savings. The biggest energy consumers were identified and looked at to determine if the City could save money and improve quality of comfort in buildings. The buildings chosen seem like the right group of buildings and provide a win/win situation. Ald. Albright reminded the Committee that they had urged the Executive

Office and Public Buildings Department to engage the services of an energy service company, as they believed it was in the best interest of the City.

Eric Olsen and Debra Crossly of the Energy Commission spoke to the Committee regarding the item. They wanted to remind everyone that these type of energy efficiencies have been discussed for a very long time. The Energy Commission is very much in favor of these Noresco projects and commended the detail of the actual audits. They do not recommend dissecting the proposed package of projects. Ms. Crossley requested further regarding the proposed energy insulation of the attics at Oak Hill Middle School and City Hall. Mr. Morse will provide the information to Ms. Crossley.

Ald. Gentile inquired if Noresco was involved in the City of Quincy's energy savings project. Noresco was not involved in the project. Josh Morse stated that he has discussed the Quincy project with the Inspector General's Office. The City of Quincy has invested a substantial amount of money in an energy service company project and has not realized the estimated savings. Mr. Morse stated that Quincy also did not have general oversight and when you enter into an energy service contract, you have to be careful what you are funding through the contract. The City needs to make sure the price that you have is the right price for the contract. Mr. Morse is comfortable with the Noresco contract but will be review the work on a regular basis. Ald. Gentile asked if the City was expecting any rebates with this phase of the project. The estimated rebate amount is \$116,000, which is a conservative figure.

Ald. Mansfield requested a projected timeline for the project. The approximate construction period is 16 months. Ald. Coletti asked if it were possible to view an energy management system. Mr. Morse stated that there is one at Newton South High School and he would be more than happy to meet with Aldermen to look at the system. Commissioner Parnell suggested that the Public Buildings Department bring a laptop to display the web-based portion of the energy management system.

Ald. Albright moved approval of the item, which carried by a vote of seven in favor and one abstention. Ald. Gentile abstained, as he wanted to hear the discussion in the Finance Committee before he voted on the item.

#385-07 ALD. SCHNIPPER AND GENTILE updating the Public Facilities Committee on the progress of the Newton North High School Project. [11/21/07 @ 10:23 AM]

ACTION: **HELD 8-0**

NOTE: The Committee held the item with no discussion, as there was nothing pressing to report.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman

From: **chip & susan bryant kimball <kimballc@nhecwb.com>**
To: **ssullivan@newtonma.gov**
Subject: **Public Facilities Comm. Oct 21, 2009**
Date sent: **Wed, 21 Oct 2009 14:20:19 -0400**

My name is George W. Kimball. I have owned a house at 84 Staniford Street Auburndale since 1979. I lived there for many years but now live in New Hampshire and rent the house.

My comments are directed to the first item on the agenda "Robert Kelly, for Edward Carey, 110 Staniford Street petitioning for a sewer main extension."

I support this sewer extension, however I would like to make the Alderman aware of the difficulties we have had with sewer connections on this part of Staniford Street since 1980 and ask if the Alderman could perhaps provide us assistance.

This section of Staniford Street is slightly lower than West Pine Street, therefore sewer was unavailable to us in 1980. When the Riverwood Condominiums were constructed in the early 1980's, Alderman Richard McGrath made sure that the sewer was extended through Riverwood to a manhole opposite 84 Staniford St. so Staniford Street residents could access the sewer when needed. The manhole has remained unused due to legal and other issues, since that time.

The legal easement for the City's use through Riverwood and Riverwood's use of the line through the Park was not obtained at the time of Riverwood's construction. Over the years at least three of us on this section of Staniford St. (Cunningham, Richard Carey, and Kimball) have asked to connect to the sewer and been told the City did not have an easement. (Richard Carey and Cunningham rebuilt their septic systems). Several years ago I (George Kimball) was told that it was now legally OK to connect, but that the city no longer did connections. After several attempts, I have been unable to find a contractor who was willing to do this work.

My request to the Aldermen is:

1. Confirm that we can finally now legally connect to the manhole opposite 84 Staniford St.
2. If the City is performing the extension work for Edward Carey at 110 Staniford St. I request that a connection for 84 Staniford St. be installed by the City.
3. If an outside contractor is performing the work at 110 Staniford St., I would like to know who they are so that I might arrange for a sewer connection.

Thank You,

George W. Kimball
172 Taterboro Road
Sandwich, NH 03227

603 986-4876



David B. Cohen
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

1164 Centre Street, Newton Center, MA 02459-1584
Chief: (617) 796-2210 Fire Prevention: (617) 796-2230
FAX: (617) 796-2211 EMERGENCY: 911



Joseph E. LaCroix
Chief

October 21, 2009

Honorable Board of Aldermen
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Honorable Board of Aldermen:

Regarding NSTAR and VERIZON pole transfers of Fire Department cables:

The Fire Department is continuously working on pole transfers, utilizing both the NSTAR Pole Management database and field discovered transfers.

To this date, the department has had no requests or contact from NSTAR indicating any problems. The Pole Management database, that the Fire Department has access to, appears to contain data that is not exclusive to Fire Department cables. The Wire Division continues to find poles where work was completed months ago, still in the system and poles, where work needs to be completed, are constantly being located in the field and are not in the system.

The Fire Department is requesting to meet with a representative from NSTAR that has an understanding of the Pole Management Database and is familiar with pole transfer problem areas, to resolve these issues.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. LaCroix
Chief of Department

JEL/cf

Jeffrey Knight
Superintendent of Fire Alarm